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FLOOR DEBATE

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condition of the pipelines, and the service. And the company that owned the gas system said that it was not for sale, absolutely not for sale. And there was a hard fought vote to decide whether or not the city would proceed, and the vote narrowly lost. Within, I'm going to say, a week or ten days, it was announced that the...the system had been sold to another company. And the service was then coming from 50 miles away. And that stung pretty hard to the community. They felt like they had not been treated fairly, and I don't think they were. So they had another vote, and the vote was fairly overwhelming to acquire the gas system. Since that time, the city has walked every line to...to make sure that it's sound and safe. They've repaired the lines that needed repair, and things have...seemed to have gone well. Now that's just one story. But I would say that, having witnessed the process that was gone through to do that, it is no easy process now. It is not anywhere near a slam dunk to accomplish the acquisition of a gas system now. It takes a lot of work, it takes a lot of research, takes a lot of money, and it's expensive to do the process. Your gas company attorneys will come out of a large town, larger than Omaha, and the experts will come from a long ways away. So it is expensive and it is difficult. So I don't think, I would think, that if the bill doesn't pass that there's going to be numerous condemnations in this state. There aren't. I am concerned about what Senator Baker describes as being a reluctance or an inability to get gas into communities. And I'm going to be interested, if this bill passes, to whether that increases dramatically because I...I think, normally, that's a function of economics as much as anything else. If they put gas in there and it gets condemned, they're going to get paid new price. They're going to get paid, I can assure you, from going through the process. Now, some of the areas that I have concerns or questions about, Senator Quandahl, and may...I'll put my light on again, I think we need to develop some understanding of the criteria...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...for...for undertaking the process. For example, what is a material threat to the health and safety of the city? What are the accepted standards of customer service